

shipper 14 is the creator and custodian of the codes. It generates a unique code for each customer, which code is associated with the customer's full shipping address and, optionally, the customer's name, permitting shipment to be made to the customer 16."

In other words, Boies' customer receives a customer number that is assigned by the shipper of the goods 14. Boies' customer would give the customer number to the seller of the goods to remain anonymous. The seller, in turn, would give the customer number to the shipper with the goods. Then the shipper would obtain the customer's address from the customer number.

Boies is not verifying in one or more data bases that recipient's name is listed with recipient's desired delivery address. For instance, when the customer gives the seller the customer number which may contain many alphanumeric characters, the customer may communicate with the seller over the telephone and give the seller the incorrect customer number, or the seller may copy the customer number incorrectly. The seller may also give the incorrect customer number. Thus, the goods may be delivered to the wrong party.

Allum et al. discloses the following in his abstract:

"Mail can be sorted automatically to point of delivery level by deriving from the address including postal code on a piece of mail a suffix which together with the postal code forms routing data which uniquely identifies the final delivery address. This is achieved automatically at the Post office sorting facility by means of an optical character reader which reads the addresses on mail items and a computer arranged to generate a suffix based on the address read. The routing data is printed as a bar code on the mail item and this allows the complete sortation to be effected automatically. Also contemplated is a progressive encoding system which can be applied as bar codes by customers as desired to mail pieces. The basic

data is the routing data set to which can be added a shipment number which allows automatic revenue accounting control and a piece number which allows automatic track and trace. Finally, the customer may also progressively encode return mail envelopes with the shipment number followed by a product code and a user defined field which permits automatic specialized handling of the return mail item."

The bar code disclosed by Allum in Figs. 7 and 8 is nothing more than the Canadian equivalent of the United States Postal Service's post net bar code. The post net bar code allows postal sorting equipment to sort mail pieces to recipient's building. In many areas, office buildings and apartment houses contain many occupants. Thus, without the recipient's name, the letter carrier would not know which occupant should receive the mail piece.

Neither Boies et al nor Allum et al., taken separately or together, discloses or anticipates the invention claimed by Applicants in claim 1 and those claims dependent thereon. The cited references do not disclose or anticipate the steps of verifying in one or more data bases that recipient's name is listed with recipient's desired delivery address on mail in coded form and human-readable form. The foregoing insures that the mail could be delivered to the recipient.

Claim 22 has been rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Boies in view of Allum and further in view of Allen, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,422,821). The above references do not disclose or anticipate the steps of verifying in one or more data bases that recipient's name is listed with recipient's desired delivery address on mail in coded form and human-readable form. The foregoing insures that the mail could be delivered to the recipient.

In view of the above, claims 1 and 6-22 are patentable. If the Examiner has any questions which he believes would be advanced by a telephone conversation with Applicants' attorney, he is invited to contact the undersigned at

the telephone number noted below.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald Reichman
Reg. No. 26,796
Attorney of Record
Telephone (203) 924-3854

PITNEY BOWES INC.
Intellectual Property and
Technology Law Department
35 Waterview Drive
P.O. Box 3000
Shelton, CT 06484-8000

CERTIFICATE OF FAXING:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being telefaxed to the United States Postal Service at:

Telefax: 703-746-7238
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

on December 3, 2001
Date of Deposit

Esther A. Lapin
Name of Rep.

Signature

December 3, 2001
Date



Facsimile

To: Hyung S. Sough
From: Ronald Reichman
Date: December 3, 2001
Subject: **E-846 Application #09/316,795**
"Virtual Post Office Box"
Pages: 1 of 5

Fax: 703-746-7238

Pitney Bowes Inc.
Senior Corporate Counsel
35 Waterview Drive
P.O. Box 3000
Shelton, Connecticut
06484-8000

203-924-3854
203-924-3919 Fax
email:
ronald.reichman@pb.com

Please contact me so that we may schedule an interview to discuss the attached
Amendment After Final Rejection.

Thank you.

Official

